

REMARKS

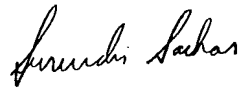
Favorable consideration of this application, as presently amended, is respectfully requested.

The present Preliminary Amendment is submitted to correct for minor informalities in the specification. The changes made to the specification are deemed to be self-evident from the original disclosure, and thus are not deemed to raise any issues of new matter.

The present application is believed to be in condition for a full and thorough examination on the merits. An early and favorable consideration of the present application is hereby respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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Marked-Up Copy
Serial No: <u>09/926,529</u>
Amendment Filed on: <u>2-7-02</u>

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph at page 11, prenumbered lines 6-8, as follows:

--FIG. [4] 5 is an explanatory view illustrating the structures of an analyst/advisor table, analyst/advisor schedule table, and a caterer table contained in the database of the above system.--

Please replace the paragraph at page 18, prenumbered line 19, to page 19, prenumbered line 6, as follows:

--Then, the nutrient analysis unit 23 of the server, after recognizing that the analysis of the previous meals of breakfast and lunch is done, is active to determine whether or not the analyzed nutrient amounts are sufficient for the prescribed nutrient amount taken per day for the dieter, and propose the dinner meal based upon the analysis of the previous meals, for example at 15:00. When the analysis of only one of the breakfast and lunch is available, no proposal of dinner meal is made. Calculation of the deficient nutrient amount is made by comparison of the analysis results recorded in the analysis results table 46 with the prescribed nutrient amount (taken per day) determined in the dieter table 41 for each Food Table with regard to the dieter concerned. When no deficiency is judged, the system provides no

proposal as to the dinner meal of the same day, but informs that effect to the terminals [62 and 63] 61 and 62 of the dieter and meal assistant.--

Please replace the paragraph at page 19, prenumbered lines 7-14, as follows:

--Upon seeing the deficient nutrient amount, the menu proposal unit 24 is activated to select various foods that compensate for the deficient nutrient amount with reference to the food-nutrient table 45, and select 10 to 15 kinds of meals that contain the selected foods with reference to the meal-food table 44. The menu proposal unit 24 thus constitutes a meal selecting means and a meal proposal means, and operates to select the meals compensating for the deficient nutrient amounts, and subsequently to propose same of the selected meals to the dieter terminal [62] 61 and the meal assistant terminal [63] 62.--

Please replace the paragraph at page 20, prenumbered line 20, to page 22, prenumbered line 2, as follows:

--The server 10 responds to make the following processing in order to have an expert's advise on the menu of the determined meals. Firstly, the main control unit 11 identifies the advisor recorded in the analyst/advisor table 57 to be in charge of the dieter concerned. In this consequence, the advice management unit 25 operates to transmit an advice request for verification of the meals to the advisor terminal 64 of the identified advisor. The advice request is accompanied with the meal codes, the identification code of the dieter, date of proposing the meal, and the meal kind for the ten meals stored in the buffer, and permits an access to the dieter table 41, image table 42, extra image table 43, meal-food table 44, analysis results table 45, meal image table 51, proposed meal table 52, meal history table 53, and advice table 54. The meal image table 51 records the image of the meals being proposed so that the advisor terminal 64 can acknowledge the proposed meals by the image thereof.

The advisor terminal 64 executes a dedicated software so as to obtain from the individual tables necessary information with regard to the meals that are the subject of the advice request and give the information on the display. The information [include] includes, in addition to the prescribed nutrient amount of each Food Group for the dieter, a personal medical diagnosis stored in the remarks fields of the dieter table, and the analysis result of the proposed meals. With reference to the information, the advisor can verify three (3) meals, from the meals from the set of meals selected by the menu proposal unit 24, as being proper to the dieter. The identification codes of thus verified meals are returned from the advisor terminal 64 to the advice management unit 25. Whereby, the advice management unit 25 functions as a meal verification means to relay the verified meal codes to the menu proposal unit 24. The menu proposal unit 24 responds to register, into the proposed meal table 52, the meal codes, identification codes of the dieter, date of proposing the meals, meal kind with regard to the verified meals, and transmit the information about the meals to the terminals [63 and 62] 62 and 61 of the meal assistant and the dieter. The information includes the names and images of the meals, and the analysis result of the previous meals so that the meal assistant or the dieter can decide the next meal with the help of the information.--

Please replace the paragraph at page 22, prenumbered lines 3-14, as follows:

--The advisor terminal 64 enables the entry of the meal management advice in the form on a text to be transmitted to the dieter and the meal assistance concerned. The text is stored in the field of the advice content in the advice table 54. The comment of the kind not to be disclosed to the dieter and the meal assistant is entered in the comment field of the advice table 54. The advice is transmitted to the meal assistant terminal [63] 62 and the dieter terminal [62] 61 at the same time as the menu proposal unit 24 proposes the meals. After

completion of the verification of the meals by the advisor as well as the completion of the entry of the advice and the comments, the main control unit 11 calls for the advice management unit 25 in order to enter the date of making the above processing in the processed date field of the analyst/advisor schedule table 58.--

Please replace the paragraph at page 22, prenumbered lines 15-23, as follows:

--Although the above description is directed to an exemplary case in which the analysis responsible for analyzing the previous meals is different from the advisor responsible for verifying, based upon the analysis result, a suitable number of the meals from the set of meals provided by the server, it is equally possible that the analyst can hold the advisor. In this case, the analyst terminal 63 is combined with the advisor terminal 64 into a consultant terminal that runs the software for making the above analysis as well as the advice. With this consequence, the type field of the analyst/advisor table [56] 57 is filled with a code indicating that the analyst holds the advisor.--

Please replace the paragraph at page 22, prenumbered line 24, to page 23, prenumbered line 12, as follows:

--Further, the above description refers to the exemplary case in which the meals are proposed to the meal assistant terminal [63] 62 and the dieter terminal [62] 61 after the primary collection of the meals selected by the menu proposal unit 24 are processed through the steps of

- 1) avoiding the duplicated meals;
- 2) considering the preference of foods by the dieter;
- 3) considering the locality of the dieter; and
- 4) receiving the verification of the advisor.

However, the present invention should not be limited to this scheme, and may be arranged to transmit the primary collection of the meals directly to the meal assistant terminal [63] 62 and the dieter terminal [62] 61, or to incorporate one or more of the above steps 1) to 4). When the steps 2) or 3) is utilized as a final processing, the meals are sorted in descending order of the duplication and presented in this order.--

Please replace the paragraph at page 23, prenumbered line 13, to page 24, prenumbered line 1, as follows:

--Still further, the present system proposes an agent service which checks whether or not the meals proposed to the meal assistant terminal [63] 62 and the dieter terminal [62] 61 are available from caterers and informs the availability. To this end, the server 10 includes the caterer agent unit 31 which finds out from the caterer table 55 one or more caterers that are capable of providing the caterer's service to the dieter concerned, comparing the meal codes available at the caterer with the meal codes for the next meals provided by the server 10, and attaches to the proposed meals a comment expressing that the proposed meals can be served by the caterer, if so found. With the help of this comment, the meal assistant terminal [63] 62 and the dieter terminal [62] 61 can place the order to the caterer. When the order is received [the order], the caterer agent unit 31 responds to read the data from the caterer table 56 and place the order to a corresponding caterer by facsimile or e-mail on behalf of the dieter for arranging the delivery of the meal to the dieter.--

Please replace the paragraph at page 24, prenumbered lines 2-9, as follows:

--The server 10 includes the analysis report unit 26 which prepares an analysis report at a suitable time interval, for example, per week or month as to the analysis result stored in the analysis results table 46 as well as the content of the advice stored in the advice table 54,

and transmits it to the dieter terminal [62] 61 and the meal assistant terminal [63] 62. The analysis report [give] gives a chart in the form of a table or graph showing the nutrient amount for each Food Group with regard to the meals that have been taken during the past predetermined period.--

Please replace the paragraph at page 24, prenumbered lines 10-18, as follows:

--The meal assistant terminal [63] 62 and the dieter terminal [62] 61 execute dedicated software to prompt, at an initial window, the selection between the modes of "transmitting the previous meal", "displaying the proposed meals", and "reading analysis report" so that selection of each mode can establish the link with the server for transmitting and receiving the data relating the selected mode. The meal assistant terminal 62 is provided with a function of adding a comment by handwriting on the photo image of the meal, which comment is retained in the image table so that the analyst can analyze the meals with reference to the comment.--